

Patent Claims:

1. A method to automatically handle undesired electronic mail in communication networks at the receiver end, characterized in that the sender address accompanying an incoming e-mail (2.1) is automatically compared to an electronically accessed list (2.3) of authorized sender addresses assigned to the receiver, said comparison being performed before the email is stored in a mailbox (2.4) of the recipient (2.6), wherein the only e-mails transferred to the receiver's mailbox (2.4) are those that had clearly been sent by authorized senders.
2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that two logically and/or physically separate mailboxes (2.4, 2.5) are provided, wherein the e-mail server (1.5) sends to the second JMB mailbox (2.5) all incoming e-mails (2.1) that indeed have the subscriber's correct recipient address but are not contained in the sender list (2.3) on the receiving side, thus making them available for further processing by the Internet Service Provider, administrative authorities and/or by the recipient.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the e-mails (2.1) are put through an automatic handling and/or analysis process, which can be configured by the recipient (2.6) and/or by the ISP (1.4), in the e-mail server (1.5), in a comparison device (2.2) and/or in at least one of the mailboxes (2.5; 2.5), said process initiated and configured either on a case-by-case basis or permanently.
4. A method according to one of the previous claims, characterized in that all executable programs sent as attachments to e-mails are automatically separated in the JMB (2.5).

5. A method according to one of the previous claims, characterized in that an analysis is performed to see if there is serial, incremental user identification occurring, which would enable inferences to be drawn concerning automatic attempts at breaking into the e-mail system.
6. A method according to one of the previous claim, characterized in that if an undesired e-mail is received, discontinuation requests or cease and desist demands can be generated automatically and delivered to the sender (1.1).
7. A method according to one of the previous claims, characterized in that virus checks of the e-mail can be carried out, for example at an established time of day or each time a message arrives.
8. A method according to one of the previous claims, characterized in that the contents of the JMB (2.5) can be cyclically deleted at specific time intervals.